

0992128 110501

METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR
DETECTION OF SPECIFIC NUCLEOTIDE
SEQUENCES

Abstract of the Invention

Methods and compositions are provided for the detection of specific nucleic acid sequences purified from cellular or tissue sources. More particularly, the present invention includes methods and compositions for the detection of nucleic acid sequences using a protection molecule that forms a protected nucleic acid sequence (PNAS) such as a triplex or duplex nucleic acid structure that includes the target nucleic acid sequence. An assay using the methods of the present invention may include one, two or three levels of specificity to minimize false positive signals. An assay using the methods or compositions of the present invention can be performed on large amounts of purified DNA in a single test, with high levels of sensitivity, thus eliminating the need for DNA amplification procedures.